

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOGADI 01008 061341Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----035765 061411Z /46
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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6273

S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 1008

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MASS, SO, US, PBOR, ET
SUBJ: SIAD SAYS SOMALIA NOT ASSISTING THE WSLF

REF: STATE 114652

1. I DELIVERED THE MESSAGE FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE TO
PRESIDENT
SIAD ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 6. THE SOMALI LEADER, WHO WAS ON THE
EVE OF HIS PARTURE FOR CAIRO AND JIDDA, RECEIVED THE CAUTIONARY WARN-
ING ABOUT SUPPORT FOR THE WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT (WSLF CALML
Y,
BUT WAS EMPHATIC IN ASSERTING HE HAD NO CONTROL OVER WSLF ACTIVITY.
HE SAID THE FRONT HAS BETTER WEAPONS THAN THE SOMALI ARMY. HE
ARGUED THAT WSLF FORCES WERE ABLE TO CAPTURE ALL THE WEAPONS THEY
NEED FROM THE INFERIOR ETHIOPIAN CONSCRIPTS NOW GARRISONING
"WESTERN SOMALIA". SIAD MADE TWO EXPLICIT POINTS. HE SAID THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE SOMALI DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (GSDR) IS NOT SUPPLYING
MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE WSLF. HE SAID, "WE HAVE NO CAPACITY TO DO
SO; WE HAVE NO WEAPONS TO GIVE THEM." SECOND, HE SAID THE GSDR
DOES NOT WANT ANY TROUBLE IN AREAS CONTIGUOUS TO SOMALIA. "IT IS
NOT IN OUR INTEREST", HE ADDED.

2. SIAD MADE NO ATTEMPT TO CONCEAL HIS DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE
CAUTIONARY MESSAGE. IF THE CESSATION OF WSLF ACTIVITY IS A CONDITION
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OF US ARMS SUPPORT, HE SAID, THEN WE SHALL HAVE TO FOREGO "YOUR
HELP" BECAUSE THERE IS NO WAY THE GSDR CAN CONTROL WSLF ACTIVITY. HE
MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GSDR WOULD NOT CONDEMN THE WSLF EITHER.
NO SOMALI PRESIDENT COULD DO THAT, HE ADDED. HE LISTENED PATIENTLY
TO MY DISCOURSE ON THE NECESSITY OF WINNING CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT
FOR AN ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP, AN EXPLANATION OF THE DISTRUST OF
MANY YOUNGER CONGRESSMEN FOR ANY ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND THE NECESSITY OF EXERCISING A RESTRAINING HAND ON THE WSLF. HE SAID HE HAD GIVEN HIS ASSURANCES OF HIS PEACEFUL INTENT IN WRITING. HE SAID HE SIMPLY DID NOT KNOW WHAT MORE HE COULD DO.

3. I DID NOT GIVE SIAD THE IMPACT LIST, NOR DID HE ASK FOR IT. I HOPE TO SUBMIT SOME SEPARATE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE LIST AND THE TIMING OF OUR NEXT STEP EARLY NEXT WEEK. SIAD'S AIDE CONFIRMED TOMORROW'S DEPARTURE, AND SIAD ACCEPTED MY GOOD WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRIP. HE IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO MOGADISCIO CIRCA MAY 13.

4. COMMENT: I BELIEVE THE REFERENCE TO THE REPORTS OF GSDR SUPPORT FOR THE WSLF AS AT VARIANCE WITH THE TENOR OF SIAD'S LETTER RANKLED. I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY WE MUST STRESS THIS POINT. NO HARM HAS BEEN DONE IN MY VIEW IF UPON HIS RETURN WE CAN DEMONSTRATE SOME FORWARD MOVEMENT. IF, HOWEVER, SIAD PERCEIVES WE HAVE INTRODUCED ANOTHER CONDITION FOR THE INITIATION OF AN ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP, THEN I SUSPECT WE HAVE A PROBLEM. HE MADE IT CLEAR AGAIN TODAY THAT HIS INFLUENCE WITH THE WSLF IS LIMITED, AND THAT THERE ARE STEPS NEITHER HE NOR ANY OTHER SOMALI LEADER CAN TAKE. I THINK HE IS CORRECT WHEN HE ASSERTS HE CANNOT DISAVOW THE WSLF OR CONDEMN HIS BROTHERS IN THE "LIBERATION STRUGGLE".

5. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS THIS MESSAGE TO CAIRO AND JIDDA
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SINCE BOTH POSTS HAVE SOUGHT AN UPDATE ON US - SOMALI RELATIONS.
LOUGHRAN

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Message Attributes

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